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JUST DO YOUR BEST.

JAMES WHITCOMB RILEY.

The signs is bad when folks commence
A-findin' fault with Providence,
And balkin' 'cause the earth don't shake
At ev'ry prancin' step they take.
No man is great till he can see
How less than little he would be
Ef stripped to self, and stark and bare,
He hung his sign out anywhere.

My doctern is to lay aside
Contentions, and be satisfied;
Jest do your best, and praise er blame
That follers, that counts just the same.
I've allus noticed great success
Is mixed with troubles, more or less,
And it's the man who does the best
That gits more kicks than all the rest.

WAR UNAVOIDABLE.

An article in the *British Weekly*, by Dr. John Clifford, thus deals with the common saying of the defenders of war, that it is unavoidable:

"War, it is said, is inevitable. 'It has a lawful place in the world as a mode of obtaining justice. All governments must fight in the last resort.' In some stages of civilization it is allowed, cannibalism, slavery, capital punishment, and war have seemed inevitable, and, so far as one can judge, were so. Courts of justice were for centuries courts of war. The death-penalty followed detected crimes with unbroken uniformity. But that necessity has disappeared, and the object of courts of justice has become the reformation of the criminal, not simply his incarceration, least of all his extinction. A similar Court of International Justice will get rid of 'the inevitableness of war,' and, under the guidance of a Christianized Democracy, secure, not the extinction, but the renewal of the nations.

"Meanwhile, we must not say the unavoidable is of necessity right and Christian, and proceed to glorify war as though it were of God, and invoke His leadership in our battles for territory, for new markets, for racial superiority, or even for the opportunity of conferring on subject peoples what we are pleased to think the blessings of our superior rule.

"Let us distinctly teach that war is wrong, a falling short of Christ's ideal for the nations, an outrage on the principles and spirit of the Christianity of our Divine Lord."

CAUSES OF WAR.

1. Wars of religion.
2. Wars for the balance of power.
3. Wars of intervention in the internal affairs of other countries.
4. Wars of historical origin.
5. Wars of race.
6. Wars of natural boundaries.
7. Wars of conquest.
8. Wars for colonial possessions.
9. Wars for influence over other countries.
10. Wars arising from imperfect political institutions.
11. Wars arising from the duties of neutral States.
12. Wars arising from accident.—*Emile de Laveleye*.

IRON SHIPS vs. IRON BRIDGES.

Do we expect any foreign potentate to have designs against us? Our word concerning Samoa was amply respected by the man of "blood and iron." The word of this 70,000,000-nation will be very apt to carry respect wherever it makes itself heard; and in any just cause, it can make itself just as audible, intelligible and mandatory as any utterance from any cannon's mouth.

So as long as America's voice is respected, it might be as well to spend our money in such useful ways as shall increase our productive power, and consequently our wealth and influence. More especially so as the new military science laughs at forts, and sums up its needs in three t's—"trains, troops and telegraphs." Add yet one t—treasure—the sinews of war—which superabounds at Washington and comprises all the rest. Then have we any need for a scare?

Farmers, mechanics and merchants are shorn by need-less taxation. They are silent or approve. The politicians, place seekers, contractors and war worshippers work their wasteful will.

Can't we millions who live on bad roads, or by unbridged streams, or where the parched soil cries to a brazen heaven, can't we make our plea heard for our crooked places to be made straight, and our deserts kind and hospitable? The same iron that makes iron clads would make bridges; the same labor and skill can build us aqueducts and flumes and roads; the same brains that design our implements of destruction can devote their energies to diminishing the illiteracy of our 6,000,000 of illiterates.—*Edward Berwick of California*.

TWO NOTEWORTHY FACTS.

Mr. William P. Thompson, a member of the Committee of the London Peace Society, gave a very interesting lecture at Southport, England, last month in the course of which he mentioned two specially suggestive facts.

1. There are 128 Members of the House of Commons who are personally and directly interested in increased military and naval expenditure, besides a number of other M.P.'s indirectly interested. One of the former, after the recent vote of fifteen millions for the Navy, exclaimed, "That has put twenty thousand pounds into my pocket!"—or, in other words, it had transferred that large sum from the pockets of the taxpayers into his own.

2. The lecturer stated that some time ago he made some investigation into the history of Treaties, and he divided them into two classes. (1) Those that had been entered into freely by two or more Governments in times of perfect peace, and (2) those which had been forced on a Government, at the end of a long war. Of the former he could hardly find a single case where the treaty had been broken. Of the latter, he could hardly find a single case where the treaty had been respected by the vanquished party the moment they felt themselves powerful enough to break it.—*Herald of Peace*.

On January 15th, in the Senate, Mr. Sherman, representing the Committee on Foreign Relations, reported a concurrent resolution in favor of a resort to Arbitration for the settlement of differences between the United States and other nations which cannot be settled by diplomatic agencies. This resolution was placed on the calendar. This is a revival of an uncompleted measure which unanimously passed the Senate at the former session.